

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed September 10, 2008 in the above-identified application.

Claims 2 and 4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 5-12 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claim 1 is amended to include features recited previously by claims 2 and 4 and to clarify features recited thereby. Claim 5 is amended to remove a typographical error and to conform it more closely to U.S. style. Further, claim 6 is amended to conform it more closely to U.S. style. Finally, claims 3 and 9 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. These amendments are fully supported by applicant's disclosure. See, for example, Specification, page 10, first full paragraph and Fig. 10.

Objection to Claims 5, 6 and 9

Claims 5, 6 and 9 are objected to because of several informalities.

Claims 5, 6 and 9 are amended.

Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Brusasco, U.S. Patent No. 5,005,436. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Without intending to limit the scope of the claims, an advantage or effect according to an aspect of applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1 as described, for example, in applicant's disclosure, page 10, first full paragraph and illustrated in Figs. 1 and 10, is that a first and a second partial deflecting piece are formed integrally connected in a way that a point-symmetricality is provided in a sectional plane before assembly of the ball screw, and thus, orientation and alignment of the first and second partial deflecting pieces with respect to each other prior to assembly are much more convenient and streamlined.

Claim 1 requires a ball screw including a deflecting piece including a deflecting channel shaped and directed for returning the balls in the thread path, the deflecting piece including a first partial deflecting piece and a second partial deflecting piece divided from the first partial deflecting piece by a parting plane, the first partial deflecting piece, in an unassembled state before assembly of the ball screw, being formed integrally connected with the second partial deflecting piece, the first and second partial deflecting pieces bounding the deflecting channel,

wherein the two partial deflecting pieces are formed integrally in the unassembled state before assembly point-symmetrically in a sectional plane arranged transversely to the parting plane, the point-symmetricality being defined with respect to a point of symmetry lying in the parting plane.

Brusasco discloses a recirculating ball screw-nut screw coupling (Brusasco, Abstract). Brusasco discloses that when the bodies 18 (illustrated, for example, in Figs. 5 and 7) that comprise the U-shaped fastener 12 are fitted together with respect to surfaces 19 contacting each other, the pin 12 of each body 18 engages hole 21 on another body 18 so as to render said bodies 18 integral with each other and so form U-shaped fastener 12 (Brusasco, column 3, lines 44-48).

Brusasco does not disclose or suggest a ball screw comprising a deflecting piece comprising a first partial deflecting piece and a second partial deflecting piece divided from the first partial deflecting piece by a parting plane, as required by claim 1. As discussed, Brusasco discloses that as part of the assembly process, the bodies 18 are rendered integral so that they are formed integrally prior to assembly.

Further, Brusasco does not disclose or suggest the first partial deflecting piece, in an unassembled state before assembly of the ball screw, being formed integrally connected with the second partial deflecting piece, the first and second partial deflecting pieces bounding the deflecting channel, as further required by claim 1. Thus, Brusasco does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claim 1.

Claims 3, 5-7 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and therefore the rejection is moot as to these claims.

Rejection of Claim 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Brusasco in view of Geurbel, U.S. Patent No. 6,425,302. Further, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Brusasco in view of Konz, U.S. Patent No. 6,437,678. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Geurbel and Konz do not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Brusasco as they relate the above-noted features of claim 1.

Konz discloses two casing halves comprising shells 16 and 17 adjoined in an unassembled state by film hinge 24 (Konz, Fig. 1; column 4, lines 51-58). Konz and the cited

art do not disclose or suggest a ball screw with a deflecting piece that includes the deflecting channel, whose assembly from two partial deflecting pieces is thus facilitated. Accordingly, even taken together in combination, Brusasco and Konz do not disclose or suggest two partial deflecting pieces that together bound the deflecting channel of a ball screw, the two partial deflecting pieces formed point-symmetrically in a sectional plane arranged transversely to the parting plane, as required by claim 1.

Therefore, since 8, 9 and 11 depend from claim 1 they are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the objection and the rejections and allowance of the claims of the application are respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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RCF:GB:ns

Respectfully submitted,



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